

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**STUDY CONCLUDES OIL AND GAS WASTEWATER INJECTION  
DOES NOT EFFECT WATER QUALITY**

A 15-year scientific investigation has concluded that wastewater from the production of oil and gas that is injected into underground disposal wells in the Altamont-Bluebell oil field in northeastern Utah does not effect water quality in the area. The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining joined with the U.S. Geological Survey in conducting the study due to concerns that injected wastewater might migrate and mix with water contained within drinking-water aquifers.

The study was begun in 1990 to monitor water quality. Samples were collected and analyzed yearly through 2005 to assess if wastewater was migrating into underground formations that are developed for drinking water.

“One of our objectives was to collect data for the long-term,” said Gil Hunt, associate director for oil and gas at the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining. “We wanted assurance that water quality was not being effected now and have the data on hand to compare water quality for decades to come.”

The report does recommend that because oil and gas development in the area is accelerating that water quality testing should be continued on a regular basis.

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